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been prepared. Under the provisions of Article 340 of the Constitution of India, the Government of India have appointed a Backward Classes Commission to enquire into the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes in all the States and to recommend the criteria for inclusion of any community in the list of backward classes and to prepare such a list for the approval of the President of the Republic of India. The Commission has recently toured the various States and its report is expected to be submitted to the Government of India shortly. Pending the report of the Commission, requests for inclusion in the list of backward classes are not considered. However, in deserving cases, specific instructions are issued to the Director of Public Instruction to allow educational concessions pending revision of the list. I do not think further clarification is needed on this subject."

11-50 a.m. SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know the criterion that is taken into consideration in the preparation of this backward class lists? Are Government taking into consideration the educational backwardness only or any other factor? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, just now I have explained the position. I do not think further clarification is necessary."

Formation of industrial co-operatives.

* 391 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to form industrial co-operatives in the State;

(*b*) if so, the amount to be allotted by the Centre and the State for this purpose; and

(*c*) the number of industries that will be benefited by these industrial co-operatives?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) & (*c*) As the proposal is still under consideration, no definite information on these points is available."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" When will this come into force, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The matter is under investigation, Sir."

Madras Medium Cotton Mill Cloth (Sales Tax) Bill, 1954.

* 392 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras Medium Cotton Mill Cloth (Sales tax) Bill, 1954, as passed by the Assembly has been sent to the President for assent; and

(*b*) if so, when it was sent?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) On the 29th May 1954."

Representation of Harijans on the City Improvement Trust Board.

* 393 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why there was no representation of the Harijans in the City Improvement Trust?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The representation on the Madras City Improvement Trust Board is not made on communal basis."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know the number of non-officials represented on the City Improvement Trust and their names? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sri V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, M.L.C., Sri M. A. Muthia Chettiyar, M.L.A., Sri B. V. Ramaswamy Naidu, Mrs. Tara Cheriyan and Sri K. M. Subramaniam."

Conversion of certain Harijan Welfare schools into higher elementary schools.

* 394 Q.—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether there is any proposal with the Government to convert the Harijan Welfare schools having a strength of more than 100 students as Harijan higher elementary schools in the Madras State?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir."

SRI M. KATTIMUTHU :—" ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் ஆரம்பப் பள்ளிக் கூடங்களில் 100-க்கு மேற்பட்ட மாணவர்கள் இருந்தாலும் அவற்றை ஹையர் எலிமெண்டிரி பள்ளிக்கூடமாக மாற்றமுடியாது என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அப்படி மாற்றுவதினால் என்ன நஷ்டம் ஏற்படப்போகிறது ? இனியாவது இப்படி 100-க்கு மேல் வாசிக்கும் ஹரிஜன பாடசாலைகளை ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி பாடசாலை யாக்க சர்க்கார் முன்வருமா?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Where it is found feasible and necessary, the Government will consider the question, Sir."

Extension of section 9-A of the Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act of 1938 to South Kanara and North Malabar.

* 395 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is the intention of the Government to extend section 9-A of the Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act of 1938 as amended in 1948 to South Kanara district and the four taluks of North Malabar; and

(b) if so, when?